GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:137
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
REJUVENATION OF VARANASI
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive blueprint for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Varanasi has been prepared by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose alongwith the time frame, if any, fixed for its completion; and

(d) the details of other culturally significant cities whose blueprints are ready or under preparation alongwith the amount earmarked for the purpose with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)to(d): Yes Sir, a comprehensive scheme is being formulated for redevelopment and rejuvenation of Varanasi. Meanwhile the Ministry have also prepared the draft guidelines for the proposed Centrally Sponsored Scheme for `Rejuvenation of Culturally Significant Cities` for which the approval of the Planning Commission is sought for.

As already stated, a scheme is being formulated for `Rejuvenation of Culturally Significant Cities`. Draft guidelines for the proposed scheme have been prepared and the detailed provisions of the scheme are under discussion with the Planning Commission before it is given a final shape. Its basic objective is to ensure that culturally significant cities become vibrant centres not only of civic life but also of economic, social and cultural advancement. The cities to be covered by the scheme would be decided in consultation with the concerned State Governments but it is proposed as a general preposition to select at least one culturally significant town in each small State/Union Territory and two in the large States. The city/cities to be covered by the scheme would be formally announced only after the scheme is given final shape. The details of the proposed schme of the Rejuvenation of Culturally Significant Cities and the amount to be spent on each city would be decided in consultation with the Planning Commission. As regards the selection of cities from the State of Andhra Pradesh inconcered, it would be decided in consultation with the State Government, after the scheme is finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission.

The cities whose blue-print for development are at comparitively advanced stage are Varanasi, Ujjain, Indore, Madurai and Trichy.